Food security

2309. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether food security is the top priority of UPA Government;

(b) whether it has ascertained the exact count of below poverty line persons in the country;

(c) what would be the total amount required for implementation of this scheme;

(d) the assurances been sought from the State Governments on foodgrain availability to sustain the massive scheme; and

(e) how many State Governments have assured/responded?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) The poverty estimates at National level and State level are decided by the Planning Commission. The latest Poverty estimates of Planning Commission are for the year 2004-05 according to which 27.5% of the population was living below poverty line in 2004-05. Actual identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is done by State and UT Governments. For identification of BPL families in rural and urban areas, guidelines are issued by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, respectively. For the next round of BPL census, the Ministry of Rural Development is yet to finalize the guidelines. Thus exact count of BPL persons based on the latest poverty estimates is not yet available.

Food security in the country is of high priority to Government. Government proposes to enact the National Food Security Act. Under the proposed law, every Below Poverty Line (BPL) family is to be entitled to receive 25 kg of foodgrains per month. Details of eligible BPL families to be covered, methodology for their identification, issue of targeted identification cards to them, etc. are yet to be worked out,

Examination of different aspects of the proposed law in consultation with various stake holders is presently in progress, As part of this exercise, first consultation with State/UT Governments on various aspects of the proposed legislation was held on 10th June, 2009, So far comments from 15 State/UT Governments have been received.

Entitled families deprived of BPL cards

†2310. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.